

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 JIDDA 01235 130939Z

47

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 PM-07 NSC-07 SS-20

DRC-01 /093 W

----- 080487

R 130645Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6389

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 1235

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SA, RP

SUBJECT: SAUDI PRESS COVERAGE OF MINSTATE SAQQAF'S
VISIT TO PHILIPPINES

1. FOR LAST FOUR DAYS SAUDI PRESS HAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO VISIT OF MINSTATE SAQQAF TO PHILIPPINES. WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN NO EDITORIALS ON THE VISIT, THE TONE OF THE PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN ON BALANCE POSITIVE. THE PRESS HAS REPORTED SOME CRITICISM BY MUSLIM ORGANIZATIONS OF PHILIPPINE HANDLING OF ITS MUSLIM MINORITY, BUT IT HAS GIVEN FAR MORE ATTENTION TO THE FRIENDLY RECEPTION ACCORDED SAQQAF AND THE HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION HE HAS BEEN RECEIVING.

2. THE PRESS HAS NOTED THAT THE SAG CONSIDERS THE PHILIPPINES A FRIENDLY COUNTRY AS REGARDS ACCESS TO OIL SUPPLIES, AND HAS REPORTED MINSTATE SAQQAF AS SAYING THAT ARAB OIL PRODUCING STATES INTEND HELP FRIENDLY STATES WHICH HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY INCREASE IN PETROLEUM PRICES. THE PRESS OF MARCH 10 ALSO QUOTES SAQQAF AS SAYING SAG PREPARED TO HELP GOP IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES WHEN PROBLEM OF MUSLIMS IN SOUTHERN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 JIDDA 01235 130939Z

PHILIPPINES HAS BEEN SOLVED. SAQQAF IS SAID TO HAVE

OFFERED SAUDI MEDIATION IN SOLVING GOP PROBLEM WITH MUSLIM MINORITY, BECAUSE "MUSLIMS IN SOUTH PHILIPPINES ARE OUR BROTHERS AND WE WILL NEVER ABANDON THEM." HE THEN ADDED, "I DO NOT WANT MY WORDS TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD BECAUSE WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS WILL DO HIS BEST TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM." PRESS ALSO REPORTS HE SAID THAT HE DOES NOT BLAME ANYONE FOR DESTRUCTION OF THE ISLAMIC CITY OF JOLO ADDING THAT HE HOPED TO RETURN TO PHILIPPINES TO VISIT THE AREA WHEN RECONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY.

3. PRESS OF MARCH 10 REPORTS MEETING BETWEEN PRES. MARCOS AND SAQQAF DURING WHICH MARCOS JUSTIFIED GOP MILITARY ACTION AS LEGITIMATE DEFENSE ITS TERRITORY. MARCOS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING AT LUNCH IN SAQQAF'S HONOR THAT HE HOPES ACHIEVE COMPROMISE AND RECONCILITATION THROUGH SUPPORT SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER ISLAMIC STATES AND THAT GOP DOING ITS BEST TO RESOLVE PROBLEM PEACEFULLY AND ACHIEVE UNITY AND EQUALITY BETWEEN MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS THROUGH DIALOGUE.

4. PRESS OF MARCH 12 REPORTS ON SAQQAF'S MEETING PREVIOUS DAY WITH PHILIPPINE MUSLIM LEADERS AND QUOTES HIM AS SAYING SAG WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO HELP GOP CREATE ATMOSPHERE OF PEACE BETWEEN ITS CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM CITIZENS.

5. COMMENT: FROM A PUBLIC RELATIONS STANDPOINT THE OBVIOUS SPECIAL ATTENTION BEING GIVEN SAQQAF BY THE GOP APPEARS TO HAVE PAID OFF. THE GOOD PRESS IS PROBABLY MORE SIGNIFICANT, HOWEVER, AS A REFLECTION OF THE SAG ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE GOP AND ITS DESIRE TO DAMPEN CHRISTIAN/MUSLIM CONFRONTATION IN THE POST LAHORE PERIOD.
AKINS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, PETROLEUM, MOSLEMS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, PRICES, MINORITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JIDDA01235
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740347/aaaabshd.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Aug-2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <08-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUDI PRESS COVERAGE OF MINSTATE SAQQAF'S VISIT TO PHILIPPINES
TAGS: PFOR, SA, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005